



# NEWS RELEASE

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July 1, 2008

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## **STATEMENT FROM DIRECTOR CARRIE LOPEZ REGARDING PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

SACRAMENTO – Department of Consumer Affairs Director Carrie Lopez today released the following statement and information on how her department will continue to protect and educate students of private postsecondary vocational schools:

"The Department of Consumer Affairs will continue to work proactively to help ensure student consumer protection in the wake of the failure of SB 823 on Monday.

"Since the Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education Reform Act of 1989 sunsetted on June 30, 2007, the Department has worked to encourage schools to voluntarily agree to comply with the law as it existed prior to June 30, 2007. We are hopeful that schools will continue to do so.

"The Department of Consumer Affairs stands ready to create a new bureau to ensure effective student protections and effective regulation of private postsecondary education, and expects legislation to do so will be drafted with clear expectations and direction for schools and students so they understand their responsibilities and their rights.

"In the meantime, the Department of Consumer Affairs will continue to do all we can to ensure student protection. We will continue to take questions and complaints from students, and to work with schools to develop and refine best practices."

- *Carrie Lopez, Director*

*California Department of Consumer Affairs*

## **DCA and Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education in California**

**The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) has worked proactively to ensure student consumer protection during the sunset and will continue to do so while legislative action is still pending.**

*DCA's record on PPVE:*

- **DCA has tendered voluntary agreements with 1,725 California schools.**

*These schools agreed to comply with the law that was in existence prior to June 30, 2007 and to make the agreement public for their staff and students to see. A complete list of all the schools can be found at <http://www.bppve.ca.gov>.*

- **DCA has retrieved \$4.7 million for students with grievances against private postsecondary vocational schools and worked with lenders to forgive 80 student loans.**

*Claims and complaints continue to be reviewed by DCA staff and will be tracked until the new bureau can be established.*

- **DCA has hosted 19 workshops for staff and students with over 700 participants statewide.**

DCA also answers daily telephone calls and email inquiries and has developed student informational brochures. DCA also works closely with the Department of Education and with students from schools that closed to help them explore their options.

- **DCA will continue to encourage students to make informed decisions.**

The Department will continue to work with schools to make sure students have protections in place and to urge schools to operate—even without the force of the law—in an open and ethical manner.

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